

## METHODS AND COMPOUNDS FOR MODULATING MELANOCORTIN RECEPTOR LIGAND BINDING AND ACTIVITY

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to methods and agonist/antagonist compounds for modulating melanocortin receptor-ligand binding. Also included is a method of identifying agonists and/or antagonists that bind to a ligand binding site for a melanocortin receptor of interest. Agonists and antagonists of ligand binding to melanocortin receptors also are provided. The invention is exemplified by identification and manipulation of the C-terminus of the human agouti related protein, which binds melanocortin receptors 3 and 4, and the production of AGRP peptidomimetics that are melanocortin receptor ligands. The methods can be applied to other melanocortin receptor agonists and antagonists.

15

20

25 File: C:\TOMS DOCS\APPS\QUINELAW\407T UC OTT\\_\_\_\_ MCR MODULATORS\407T-980910PC.APP.DOC